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25 April 1983**JACK ANDERSON****Terrorist Wages
One-Man War
Against Israel**

After last week's bombing of the American Embassy in Beirut, U.S. intelligence agencies are taking a closer look at terrorists in the Middle East. In a highly competitive field, one man has emerged as the most bloodthirsty Arab terrorist in the world.

He is Abu Nidal, and he has written his record in blood. His fanatical group's latest victim was Dr. Issam Sartawi, a U.S.-trained cardiologist who was the Palestine Liberation Organization's western European representative.

The "crime" for which Sartawi was murdered in Portugal was being a moderate, the highest-ranking PLO leader to advocate recognition of Israel. That was enough to mark him for assassination by Nidal's gunmen.

Nidal's single-minded aim is the destruction of Israel. Like the Serbian "Black Hand" terrorists who touched off World War I with the assassination of Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand at Sarajevo, Nidal's killers don't care how many people die as they pursue their goal. In fact, Nidal also ignited a war.

Here is Nidal's sorry record, as revealed by secret State Department documents and interviews with intelligence sources by my associate Dale Van Atta:

- After defecting from the PLO's mainstream organization, Fatah, in 1974, Nidal tried to assassinate Yasser Arafat and was sentenced to death by Fatah's military court.

- Nidal took refuge in Baghdad, and with the Iraqi government's help sent Palestinian death squads against Arab opponents in the Middle East and Europe. In 1978 his gunmen, numbering fewer than 100, assassinated at least eight PLO representatives.

- In 1980, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein kicked Nidal out. The Syrians accepted him, even though he had seized a Damascus hotel and murdered four hostages just four years earlier.

- In May, 1981, Nidal claimed responsibility for the murder of Heinz Nittel, chairman of the Austro-Israel Society and a personal friend of Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky.

- In August, 1981, Nidal's thugs attacked a synagogue in Vienna, killing two persons with Polish WZ63 machine pistols.

- On June 3, 1982, Nidal's group seriously wounded Israel's ambassador in London, Shlomo Argov, using the same Polish weapons. The assassination attempt was the immediate

cause for Israel's invasion of Lebanon three days later.

- In August, 1982, Nidal's group used machine pistols and grenades in an attack on the defenseless patrons of a well-known Jewish restaurant in Paris. Six persons were killed, including two Americans.

In the wake of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, one secret State Department report speculated that, if Arafat were toppled from his shaky control of the PLO, "the Palestinian movement will probably disintegrate into radical splinter groups, which, in combination with other revolutionary forces in the region, would pose a grave threat to the moderate Arab governments."

The report added: "Israel seems determined to vent this threat... and can be expected to greatly expand its covert cooperations with revolutionary movements."

Asked what this meant, two well-placed intelligence sources explained that it was in Israel's interest to "divide and conquer," to disrupt the PLO by setting one faction against another. The sources said Israel had secretly provided funds to Abu Nidal's group.

No credible source, incidentally, suggested that Israeli leaders knowingly supported the assassination attempt on their own ambassador to provide a pretext for the Lebanon invasion.